

Lectotypification of *Viscum latifolium* Lamarck

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ABSTRACT

Viscum latifolium Lamarck is lectotypified. Published on-line www.phytologia.org *Phytologia* 97(2): 137-138 (April 1, 2015). ISSN 030319430.

KEY WORDS: *Viscum latifolium*, *Phoradendron racemosum*, *Passovia pyrifolia*, lectotypification.

The name *Viscum latifolium* has appeared at least three times in the botanical literature, the earliest being published by Lamarck (1789). In the early monograph of the viscaceous genus *Phoradendron* (Trelease 1916) as well as in my recent one (Kuijt 2003), *Viscum latifolium* Lam. was listed as a synonym of *P. racemosum* (Aubl.) Krug & Urban. Trelease neither typified the species nor listed a Lamarck specimen under *Phoradendron racemosum*. In my own monograph, *Stoupy s.n.* (P-LAM) was incorrectly listed as the holotype of *V. latifolium* Lam. There exists an urgent reason to correct this error, as explained below.

The relevant statement following Lamarck's description of *V. latifolium* reads as follows: "Ce *Gui* croît dans l'Isle de St. Dominique. Nous en possédont un bel exemplaire rapporté de Cayenne par M. Stoupy ...". No collector was mentioned for the Hispaniola material. In other words, he based his description on an unnamed specimen from Hispaniola and reported that he also possessed a good specimen from Cayenne collected by Stoupy. The former would have been the holotype but is not present in P-LAM. Since no collector or other data are provided, it would be impossible to prove that any other specimen can be regarded as the holotype. At first sight, therefore, it would be tempting to typify Lamarck's name with the Stoupy specimen, which is in excellent condition and is present in P-LAM. However, this would be a serious mistake, for that specimen unequivocally belongs to what is presently known as *Passovia pyrifolia* (Kunth) Tiegh. (Loranthaceae), which does not occur on any of the Greater Antilles except Jamaica. In fact, that species is the most common and widespread species of continental neotropical Loranthaceae, and the change of its name that would result from its designation as the type of *V. latifolium* would be extremely unfortunate.

Fortunately, this change is unnecessary. As Dr. Kanchi Gandhi (GH) has kindly pointed out, Lamarck also refers to a plate in Plumier's "Plantarum americanarum ..." (Plumier 1760, tab. CCLVIII, Fig. 4). This figure, labeled "*Viscum folius ovatis*", undoubtedly corresponds to the present *Phoradendron racemosum*. In consequence, I herewith designate that figure as lectotype of *Viscum latifolium* Lamarck. This lectotypification has the double effect of retroactively justifying the synonymy of Lamarck's name as listed by Trelease (1916) and myself (Kuijt 2003) and, most importantly, avoiding a calamitous name change of *Passovia pyrifolia*. It is clear that Lamarck was in error in considering his two specimens to be the same species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The nomenclatural advice of Dr. Kanchi Gandhi (GH) is gratefully acknowledged.

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